

MULTIMODALITY MEDICAL IMAGING SYSTEM AND METHOD
WITH INTERVENING PATIENT ACCESS AREA

ABSTRACT

The invention comprises a system and method for creating medical images of a
5 subject patient using a plurality of imaging devices, such as tomographic imaging scanners.
The system comprises a plurality of imaging devices, each having a bore through which a
patient is translated during scanning. The bores of each device are substantially aligned
axially with respect to each other. An open area is formed between the imaging devices
along the path of the patient, through which a caregiver can attain line-of-sight visual contact
10 with or other access to the patient. During a scanning operation, the scanned portion of a
patient is transported through the bore of the first device, past the opening between the
devices and into the bore of the second device.